VirtualWork
A newsletter for customers and friends of IES

VA 10.0, Is it Like Corn Flakes?

Newest VisualAnalysis: Stays crunchy even in Milk

So what exactly is going on inside the new version of VisualAnalysis? Same basic corn in a shiny new & improved box?
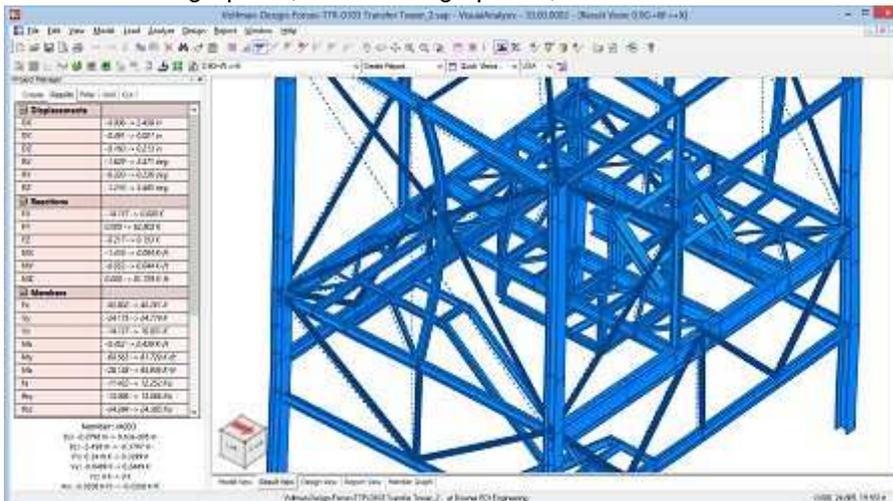

Answer: Yes!

VisualAnalysis is still the same easy to use analysis and design tool. It handles just about anything you can throw at it. Dig a little deeper though and you'll find something more exciting going on.
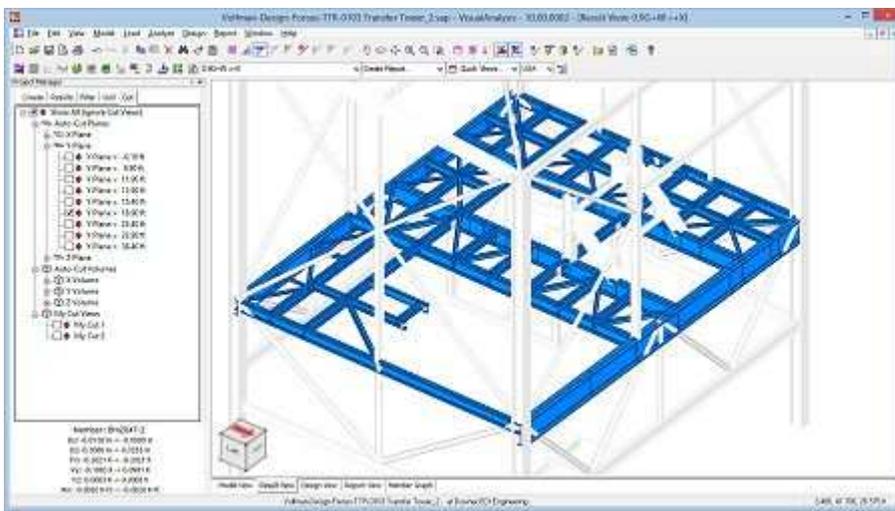
Better Answer: New & Improved!

IES customers drive the development by reporting problems, suggesting features, and submitting feedback. For the most part, YOU are the reason that VisualAnalysis is what it is today. Or at least those of you in the **5-10% vocal minority** who use our technical support services and participate in beta-testing. So we have added items like this:

- Stress checks for custom and tapered members (*advanced*)
- Steel connection design (*advanced*)
- More preferences, e.g. Design options, Load cases
- More specialized reports, e.g. Beam Deflections
- Cleaner graphics, new viewing options, custom colors

Highlight View Mode, emphasizes selected items:

[VisualAnalysis 10.0](#) is an major improvement over 9.0 and yet is a seamless and hassle-free upgrade for customers. If you have been using version 6.0 or higher, it should just work and there will not be any upgrade shock! With dozens of other improvements to give you more engineering power as well as features you won't even notice--you will find it much easier to use.

Key IES Answers

Answers to Questions others are Asking

Answers to questions like this can be found in the [IES FAQ Answers](#).

Q: I get crashes or quirky behavior in VisualAnalysis?

Answer: Update your video card driver and settings.

See the IES FAQ Answers, search for 'video card' for details on how to update your video card driver. For best results use a high-quality video card and something fairly 'new' (say built since 2008). Make sure you are using the latest update of VisualAnalysis 10.0 too!

Q: Can I use IES on two machines?

Answer: Yes!

Any one person may use IES products they license on up to three different machines. Each person needs a single-user license, though. Extra-user licenses are discounted significantly. We also offer 'floating' network licenses if many people need to use the software.

Q: How do I install my products on a new machine?

Answer: Download from web, enter key in Easy License

All of our current products are available for easy download 24/7. For legacy products, email 'sales@iesweb.com' for a link to the version you need to install (and then archive that installer!). Your license key was emailed to you with instructions for installing it. You should save those instructions in a text file for future use. If you lose your license key, we can get you a replacement for 'current' products (those less than 4 years old.)

Q: What do you call a fish with one eye?

Answer: A fish.

(Just checking to see if you are still paying attention.)

SE Exam Experience

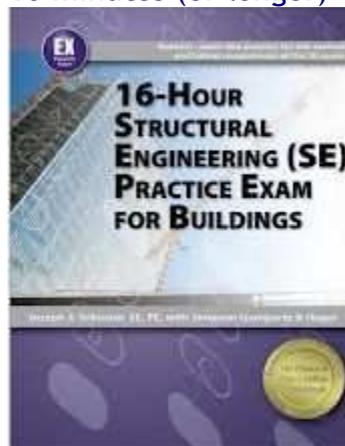**By Dan VanLuchene, Ph.D, PE, and IES Partner**

Recently I sat for the SE exam (both gravity and lateral sections). I would like to share a couple thoughts I have about the experience. First off, I was not required to take it because Montana does not currently recognize the SE. You might say I took it for the heck of it.

The exam was everything it was made out to be. It was diverse…all materials and I mean all… yes, cold-formed steel! There was no time to spend looking for an answer, 40 questions in the morning some of which take 10 minutes (or longer) and 4 design problems in the afternoon. If the answer is not right in front of you, you've got to move on. The PM design problems had what I would call "tough" design, ASCE7 Chapters 6 (Wind Loading) and 15 (Seismic, Non-Building Structures), for example. The exam is expensive, over $1000 just to take it, and then well over $1000 worth of codes/specifications need to be used. I used several of the "books" available for studying but did not participate in the expensive on-line classes available.

When I left the exam tired and wasted, I had a very good feeling for the "state of structural engineering". We have an SE type exam whereas other professions do not: that alone makes our profession better. Would I do it again, yes, it forced me to diversify my knowledge and I do feel better about my chosen profession. Lucky for me…I squeaked out a passing grade so I don't have to take the "damned" exam again.
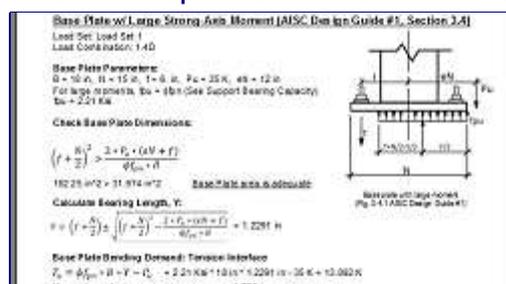
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VAConnect 1.0!

A Connection Design Add-In

For many years you have been asking for help designing steel connections. We had a 'crude' base plate design tool in VisualAnalysis since way back, but unfortunately it had gotten little attention and was obsolete code-wise. With VAConnect we are introducing a package of connection utitlities that can work within VisualAnalysis or as stand-alone utilities. This provides a great balance between a monolithic and all-serving VisualAnalysis and the need to design or check a quick connection. The new system is built from the ground-up with the very latest technology for robust operation and ease of use.

Transparent Reporting

We have taken much of the 'Transparent Reporting' idea seen in our Quick-product line and incorporated it into the new Base Plate and Shear Tab design modules so that there is no magic-black-box. We are checking the required limit states and spell it all out in detailed reports (but only if you want them!).

Currently this add-in is available and free to VisualAnalysis Advanced-level customers only.

How to Get VAConnect

Grab VAConnect 1.0 from the Supplementary downloads page. You must have a license of VisualAnalysis Advanced to use it. Find connections in the Design View

or run the tools from your Start menu.

Do You Like It?

We are looking for feedback on these tools and suggestions for ways to improve the integration with VisualAnalysis as well as for additional connection-types. Once we get this, we will extend this tool significantly to meet those needs.

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